



May 28, 2009

Dear Parents,

Well...it's that time again! Time to don the swim trunks and head out to the pool for some much-needed rest and relaxation. Time to gulp down ice-cold glasses of lemonade as the Texas sun beats down incessantly. Time to enjoy vacation with the family and recuperate after a strenuous school year. And time to grab a great book or two and expand the mind a bit!

Yes, it is time for summer reading. And I sincerely hope that this summer's reading assignment will be a positive and challenging one for your students as they begin to prepare their minds for next year. I am not naïve; I know that motivating your students to want to read (or do any type of formal education, for that matter) during the summer can be an arduous task. But I hope you realize just how valuable these reading assignments are in the comprehensive scope of your child's education.

Research has shown what teachers have long known – that students who do not exercise their minds during the summer return in the fall having fallen behind in their learning. The summer reading assignments are designed to help your students continue to engage their minds with rich literature that has the potential to be a presence for a lifetime. Our desire and our focus is to help students grasp how all truth is God's truth...how God's truth serves as a foundation for the literature they read...and how what they read becomes a springboard for meaningful dialogue, thought, and action in their lives. Ultimately, we want to produce students who will think critically about all aspects of life and who are transformed both spiritually and intellectually by the things they read.

Attached, please find the summer reading assignments for high school English. Please note the due dates for each assignment, along with the very specific instructions on how to do the assignment and the expectations that each teacher has. Our intention is to help our students become active readers, and thus the assignments ask the student to interface with the assigned text(s).

I would challenge and encourage you to read along with your students this summer as well. The texts we have selected could provide some rich dinner-table (or poolside!) discussions in which you are able to direct your students closer to the Lord and further from the traps of this world.

Have a blessed summer, and we look forward to a great 2009-2010 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tag Green", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tag Green  
English Department Chair  
Honors English IV, AP English IV